

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

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OCTOBER 14, 1940

## New Axis Attack In Mediterranean Seen

**German-Italian Action to Drive British from Gibraltar and Suez Considered Likely**

### MOSLEM UPRISING SOUGHT

**Attitude of Soviets, Turkey, and Spain Also Important Factor as Zero Hour Draws Near**

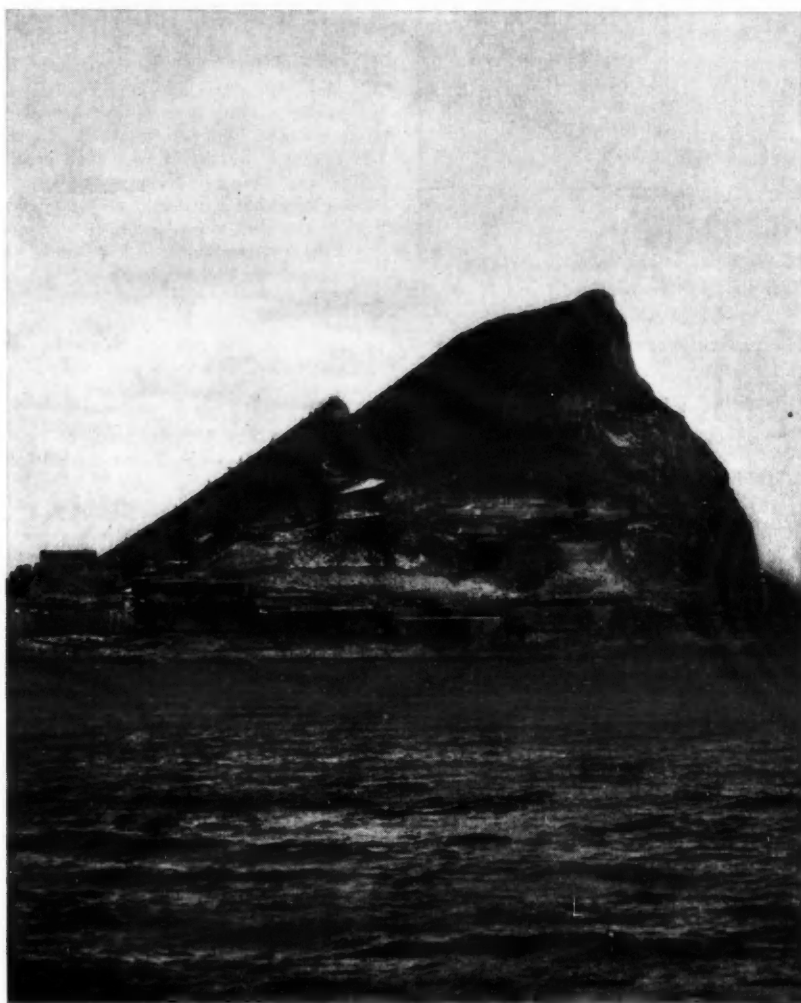
Recent reports from Britain indicate a growing belief that the danger of a German invasion has now passed—at least for the duration of this year. There is no certainty about this, of course, since the war has already sprung many surprises, but a number of signs point to a shift in the direction of attack. British night bombers no longer blast Nazi jumping-off bases on the continental shore with the concentrated fury of a few weeks ago, but tend now to seek out German centers of production and distribution. Official admissions that the war may be long (heard in Berlin and Rome), and such moves as the conclusion of a Berlin-Rome-Tokyo alliance, a surprise conference between Hitler and Mussolini at Brenner Pass, and increasing Axis pressure on Spain, Greece, and Yugoslavia—all these suggest, when pieced together, that a new move is being prepared. Many observers expect it to develop in the Mediterranean and in lands bordering that shining sea. Unable to strike a telling blow at England itself, the Axis may now turn upon the British Empire instead.

### Role of Mediterranean

It is not strange that the Mediterranean basin should become the theater of a general war. Even though the region is poor in minerals and soil, and almost completely lacking in heavy industry, the sea itself is one of the greatest commercial highways of the world. Nearly 2,300 miles long, averaging 300 miles in width, this narrow, almost tideless, sea washes the shores of three great continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—and its basin contains the cradles of three great religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. To Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey, the Mediterranean provides the only outlet to the high seas. To Russia, Rumania, Bulgaria and (at present) to unoccupied France, it offers the best outlet. To France and Italy this body of water serves as a link to territories in North Africa. To Great Britain it is one of the most important life lines of the Empire, providing a short cut to East Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

There has already been considerable fighting in the Mediterranean, of course, but it is important to remember that up to now only Italy has treated this region as the main theater of war. And Italy has good reason for so doing. "If for others the Mediterranean is a route," Mussolini once said, "for us it is life itself." Italy is almost desperately poor in raw materials, and to support a population of 42,500,000 people living in an area only twice the size of New England she must import huge quantities of tin, copper, petroleum, rubber, cotton, wool, coal, iron ore, steel, and a dozen other important raw or finished essentials. In normal times, 86 per cent of her imports come through the Mediterranean. Of these only a quarter originate within the sea. The rest come through the narrow bottlenecks at the ends of the Mediterranean—10 per cent

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GIBRALTAR—GATEWAY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

GALLOWAY

## Excuses and Alibis

By WALTER E. MYER

Many people ruin their chances of success in their work or of happiness in their personal relations with others because of the unfortunate habit of making excuses for the nonperformance of duty. If they fail at an assigned task, they always have an excuse to offer. No matter what error they make, they are prepared to explain it in great detail and to justify themselves. If they are late for an appointment, they have plenty of reasons to explain their tardiness. They have an excuse for every occasion and are past masters at the art of finding the excuse which will best fit the occasion. Now, it is a well-known fact that excuses and explanations are sometimes justifiable and even necessary. One cannot always foresee what will happen to prevent him from fulfilling his obligations and performing his duties. Under such circumstances, one should make the proper explanation and offer his legitimate excuse. But he should do so as directly as possible. He should not go into a long and repetitious discourse about details; should not wear his listener out by telling him how very, very sorry he is and how it will never, never happen again.

Far more important, however, than the annoyance and boredom such people cause is the lack of confidence which their excuse-making creates. If they are at school they are likely to be constantly unprepared with their daily assignments, for they will always have an excuse to explain why they have not done their work. If they have jobs, they will probably be irresponsible and unreliable. Employer and associates alike will distrust such persons and lose confidence in their ability to perform their duties. The same thing is true in one's social relationships, for the person who is forever devising excuses is likely to find himself without friends. Friendship is on a sound basis only when there is mutual trust and frankness. That foundation will be destroyed more quickly by constant excuse-making than by any other single thing. The person who uses excuses to cover his own mistakes and shift the blame to others is weak and contemptible. If you make a mistake, admit it and try to see to it that the same mistake is not repeated. But do not attempt to shield your own reputation by placing the blame on others. The person who follows such a course is devoid of character and integrity. Nearly everyone has heard the old maxim, "He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else." This is, of course, an exaggeration, but there is a good deal of truth in it. One should make every effort to keep his word at all times, however difficult or inconvenient it may be. Then if he occasionally finds it impossible to do so, he will not feel compelled to find an alibi.

## Population Increase In U.S. Slows Down

**Rate of Growth Now Less than Half that of Previous Decades, According to 1940 Census**

### MANY PROBLEMS ARE RAISED

**Unless Trend Is Reversed, Nation Must Make Adjustments for Less Rapid Expansion of Population**

During the decade which has closed, the population of the United States increased at a rate less than half that of any previous 10-year period in our entire history. While there are eight and a half million more people in the country today than in 1930, and while the total population is today 131,409,881, the rate of increase was only seven per cent. Between 1920 and 1930, the amount of increase was nearly twice as large—16,000,000 (from 107,000,000 to 123,000,000), and the rate of increase was 14.8 per cent, and the decade before it was 16 per cent.

In fact, from the time the first census of the population was taken in 1790, the rate of increase has never, until this year, fallen below 14 per cent. From colonial times down to the Civil War, population grew by leaps and bounds. The average rate of increase was 35 per cent. In 1700, the colonial population was 275,000; by the middle of that century it had jumped to 1,207,000; and by 1800, it was 5,308,000. During the nineteenth century, the figure soared decade after decade, and by 1900, there were 76,129,000 people in the United States. Between 1790 and 1930—a span of 140 years, the population jumped from less than four million to 123,000,000—a 31-fold increase.

### Slowing Down

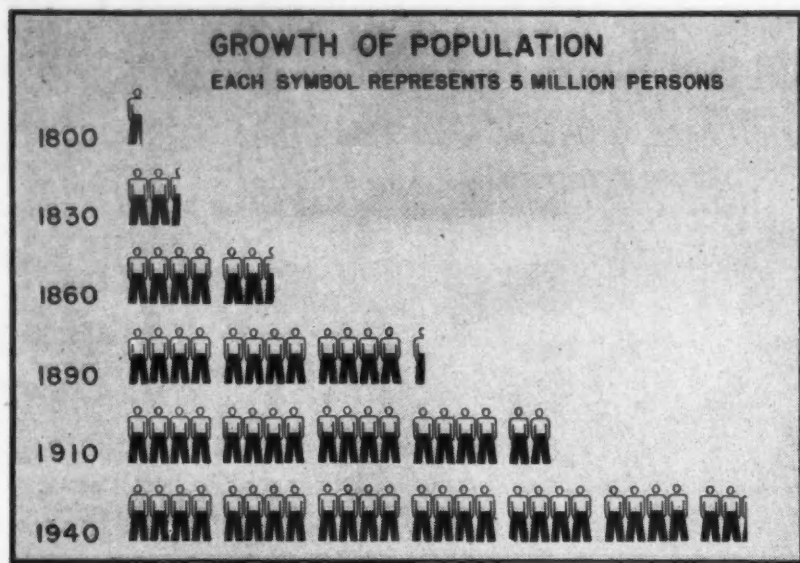
These are among the important facts brought out by the census which was taken in April of this year. They are facts of the greatest significance and they reveal a trend in population which, if continued, is bound to have inestimable effects upon the future of the United States. The population of this country is still increasing, it is true, but it is increasing not only at a slower rate than ever before in our history, but the actual size of the increase is smaller than it has been for a number of decades.

What do these figures mean? For one thing, they indicate that the period of great expansion in population is drawing to an end. Careful students of the problem have long predicted that in a few decades, the population of this country will reach a peak—after which it will remain stationary or may even decline. They differ as to the actual date when the crest will be reached. Some say that by 1955, the high figure will be attained—approximately 138,000,000. Others contend that the peak will be reached in 1980, with a total population of 158,000,000. Whatever the top figure, practically all are agreed that the day is not far off when the population of the United States will stop increasing.

Before we undertake to examine the significance of this trend, let us look at the outstanding causes of this reversal of a trend that has been fairly constant from colonial times. There are two principal causes: a declining birth rate and the stoppage of immigration from abroad. The birth rate has been declining for a number of decades, although there was not actually a smaller number of births until a few years ago. Since 1929, there has been a general trend toward a smaller number of

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POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES

## Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

### Trends of World Population

WHEN the history of the present period is written, one of the most significant facts emphasized will probably be the trend of world population. In its long-range effects upon the future of civilization, it may outrank in importance many of the events and developments with which we are today so greatly concerned. For the world is today in the midst of a revolution with respect to the growth of population. A trend which has been fairly constant for more than a century and a half is being reversed and its effects upon the future will be profound, if not epoch-making.



DAVID S. MUZZEY

The problem, as it affects the United States, is discussed elsewhere in this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. To a certain extent, the problem is world-wide, for the population trends which are manifesting themselves in this country are characteristic of the nations of western Europe. Population is growing less rapidly than it has grown for 150 years. In hardly a single important country in western Europe is the birth rate sufficiently high to maintain the population at even its present level. This phenomenon seems to be unique in Western civilization, for the populations of Japan and China and India and other countries seem to be increasing at their normal rate.

#### Period of Growth

Let us examine a moment the trend of world population in the past. Until about the beginning of the nineteenth century, the population of the earth was fairly stationary. The increase was slow and century after century saw practically the same total number of people on the earth. Henry Pratt Fairchild, writing two years ago in *Harpers*, called attention to the sudden change which took place about 1800. He writes:

From the 750 million total of 1800, the population of the world sprang to nearly 1,700 million in 1900. It stands at about two billion today. In brief, during the nineteenth century humanity added much more to its total volume than it had been able to pile up during the previous million years, and in 150 years it nearly trebled the number. These are the most amazing figures in the whole gallery of statistical pictures. Their essential significance is actually incomprehensible. We are blind to it only because the habituation of our own individual lifetimes causes us to regard as "natural" or "normal" that which is really absolutely unique in human experience.

Two developments of unusual importance accounted, in part at least, for the sudden spurt in population growth. The first was the industrial revolution which

made possible the production of far more goods than was possible in earlier centuries. The machine was used to harness and develop the earth's resources and to turn them into articles which man needed for food, clothing, and shelter. Thus the industrial revolution, whatever else it may have accomplished, did make possible the supporting of a larger number of people on the earth. Hand in hand with the industrial revolution went the revolution in science which made possible the prolongation of human life by combating the plagues and pestilences which throughout history had wiped out considerable proportions of the earth's population.

#### Second Development

The second development is of no less importance. It was the opening of new lands to the settlement of human beings. It was during the nineteenth century that the Western Hemisphere, containing new and fertile lands, was opened up for habitation and economic exploitation on an undreamed of scale.

Thus we can see that what has been happening with respect to population has really been an "abnormal" development and that the reversal of this trend is, in a sense, a "return to normalcy"; that is, a return to a more stationary population, such as prevailed throughout the world before the nineteenth century. The abnormal population growth coincided—in point of time—with the greatest economic revolution in the history of the world.

A slowing down in the rate of population growth, even a stationary population as is predicted for a few decades hence, is bound to have effects upon civilization as profound as those which resulted from the great growth of the nineteenth century. What these effects will be cannot be predicted with accuracy because they will depend upon the ability of nations to adjust to these changed conditions. That they will entail adjustments there can be no doubt, for the economy of the United States, as well as that of western Europe, has been geared to an expanding population and expanding markets. The future of mankind will depend upon the wisdom of the adjustments that are made.

A word in conclusion: While population in general is tending toward the stationary level, the rate of increase is slower in some countries than others. For example, the population of France and Britain has been practically stationary for some time, whereas that of Germany has recently been expanding. The population of Japan has been increasing at the rate of a million a year. Does this mean that these nations will come to assume a position of greater permanent dominance in the world of tomorrow? This is but one of the many questions that have been raised by the present population trends.

## Our Neighbors -

SOME of the members of the congregation have been coming to their minister, Dr. Saintsbury, with questions which are troubling them. "How can one keep his faith in the triumph of Goodness and Justice at a time like this," they ask; "at a time when Might seems to be supreme over Right, and when brute force appears to rule the world?"

Dr. Saintsbury says in reply: "We should not lose faith in the eventual victory of the forces of Justice and Humanity simply because there is Evil in the world or because it is very powerful. There have been evil and inhumane forces throughout history. Sometimes they have seemed too strong to be overcome. But progress toward better and more humane ways of living has been made, and it has been made because those who believed in Goodness and Justice have worked all the harder when the clouds were darkest. It has been made not by the fainthearted, but by heroes who have fought for the Right, as they saw the Right, through thick and thin. We do not know why such cruel and destructive forces are rampant in the world today, but their existence means, not that we should give up hope, but that we should struggle the harder for Justice and Humanity."



"There is one thing which we can do today," continues Dr. Saintsbury. "When love and compassion and sympathy seem to be losing ground in the world, each person can and should resolve that these qualities should not die in the realm where he is king—in his own heart and home. If each one will do that, sympathy and love will not die in the world, but will live and be supreme long after the darkness of this hour gives place to the sunshine of a better day."

\* \* \* \* \*

NOW that Tim Murphy has a job at the factory he faces a decision which millions of other workers have had to make. Shall he join a labor union? "Don't do it," some of his friends advise. "When you join a union you give up your freedom. You may be ordered to quit your job and strike when you don't want to do it. And the union in your factory is run by a small clique of selfish leaders. They are interested only in money and power for themselves. Why should you turn yourself over to them?"



But Tim isn't going to take that advice. "If I don't join a union I am helpless," he says. "I can't get better wages or conditions of work unless I join with the other fellows. None of us can look out for our interests unless we work together. I don't know whether the charge that the union is run by selfish leaders is true or not. Maybe that is a false charge which is made to hurt the union. But if it is true, the thing for us to do is to exert more influence in our union. That is the way to make democracy work—to make it work, not only in the nation as a whole, but in all of our societies and organizations. I don't defend everything that the unions do, but the way to make them better is to get into them and then see to it that they do the right thing. That's the way a good citizen should do whether he belongs to a labor group or an employers' organization. If you are a businessman, join a businessman's organization; if a worker, join a labor organization; and whichever you join, help to guide it in the right direction."

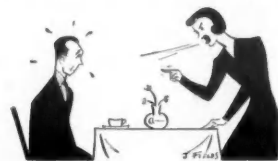
"I suppose," Tim continues, "that no organization is perfect. Labor unions aren't and businessmen's associations and farmers' organizations aren't. But we can't just go our own ways. We have to cooperate with others in order to get things done. So I'm going to get into the union, take an interest in it, and try to help make it the very best union in the country—an organization that will look after the interests of the men and at the same time serve the whole industry and the country as well. An organization doesn't have to be selfish in order really to help its members."

\* \* \* \* \*

"DON'T like those friends of yours, Bernice, that we were out with last night," says Mr. Boner. "Several times while we were at dinner I caught one or the other of them looking at me and raising his eyebrows in a snooty sort of way. It made me good and sore, I can tell you."

"I don't blame you for being sore about it," Bernice replies. "They were rude if they acted as you say they did. But you can scarcely expect people not to notice your table manners."

"What did I do that was so bad?" demands Boner, and his wife presents him with a bill of particulars. "In the first place," she says, "you very carefully tucked a corner of your napkin in your vest. While waiting for the first course you toyed with the silver. Then you buttered an entire slice of bread. You later cut the entire portion of meat into bites before you began to eat it. When you got started eating you simply went after it, and had nothing to say until you finished. Then you pushed your plate away from you, settled back in your chair, and entered the conversation." Boner wants to know what's wrong with all that, and Bernice suggests that he consult Emily Post.



\* \* \* \* \*

MERLE is walking down the street in a happy frame of mind. Life to him is a very pleasant experience. He dodges every duty that is unpleasant and does only the things which appeal to him. His studies do not bother him, for he cares nothing about grades. If he flunks a course, as he frequently does, he simply takes it over, which seems not so bad since he has plenty of time. He doesn't mind cutting a class, and he evades other duties and obligations and manages to have a very good time. He is known as a "good fellow" and has a number of friends. Just now he is on his way to call on his Number One girl friend and take her to a movie. So why shouldn't he have a broad smile on his face?



Perhaps, however, his smile wouldn't be so broad if he could hear what one of his friends is saying about him. "A fellow like Merle gets along all right when he's in school," says this friend. "He is regarded merely as careless and irresponsible, and that doesn't make so much difference here in school where other people really look after us. But after a while Merle and the rest of us will be out on our own. And then what will he do? Unless he changes his habits he can't be a professional man, a business executive, an engineer, or a skilled worker of any kind, because he isn't responsible or industrious or skilled in anything. A boy who fails at his work and doesn't care may be considered merely a carefree, good fellow in school, but out in the world that kind of person is called a loafer, a ne'er-do-well, and he has a mighty tough time. He doesn't even have friends any more. Maybe Merle will face about and take himself seriously in time to avoid failure at an occupation, but I think he's taking a big risk."





THE LAWYER IN COURT

## • Vocational Outlook •

### The Law

DESPITE evidence that the legal profession is overcrowded, thousands of hopeful young men continue to enroll in the nation's law schools. Each year 40,000 new admissions are registered and each year the number of new lawyers licensed to practice at the bar is double the number of retirements. As long ago as 1932, surveys warned that there was simply not enough legal work in the country to assure the entire profession an adequate income. But this warning has gone unheeded and today there are about 250,000 lawyers as against about 180,000 in 1932.

These figures do not mean, of course, that every student who has cherished the idea of law as a career should forthwith abandon that idea and turn to some other profession. They do underline the fact, however, that only those with exceptional talent or with especially advantageous connections should give serious consideration to the law. The period of preparation is long and arduous and fully half of those taking the bar examinations fail to make a passing grade.

The law schools approved by the American Bar Association all require at least two years of college training for admission. Some schools with even higher standards demand that applicants have three or four years of college work. Then, the regular law courses require an additional three years, if full time is devoted to study; for evening or part-time courses four years or more are required. Tuition in law schools varies from a nominal sum in state universities to more than \$450 in private institutions.

The standards of law schools not approved by the American Bar Association are less exacting. Without presuming to pass upon the quality of the training provided by these unapproved law schools, it is safe to suggest that the young lawyer who has prepared for his career at one of the approved schools sets out with fewer handicaps.

Initial earnings in the legal profession are rather modest, and it has been established that the incomes of newcomers increase less rapidly in the legal than in most other professions. For the first five years of practice, many young lawyers can do little more than make ends meet. If they obtain jobs with regularly established law firms, their earnings are likely to be about \$75 a month, rarely more than \$100, at least until they are given more than routine assignments.

Nor is the plight of the young lawyer any better if he strikes out on his own by opening an office. At the start his income may barely cover rent and incidental office expenses. It takes some years for him to build up a steady clientele sufficient to assure an adequate income. Even then, the chances of his making a large income, if that is his aim, are none too good. About half of all the lawyers in the country earn less than \$2,500 a year. There are a few

outstanding lawyers, of course, whose salaries are way up in the high brackets. But they are exceptional and should not be regarded as representative of the profession as a whole.

Putting aside the question of earnings as only one consideration and not necessarily the major one, the legal career has much to recommend it to those who have a deep interest in the law. Lawyers are respected members of their community. With the continued increase of governmental controls over business, industries find it essential to take on staffs of lawyers with keen minds and thorough training. In addition, the field of law offers many other opportunities. Besides general practice, the lawyer may specialize in one of a dozen branches of law, such as civil law which deals with damage suits; admiralty law, involving ocean trade and accidents at sea; criminal law; and patent law. Finally, there is the likelihood that many jobs will be available to young lawyers who specialize in labor problems, particularly as they are affected by the operation of the National Labor Relations Act.

## United States Completes Plans for Registration of Over 16,000,000

AMERICANS will remember Wednesday, October 16, 1940, as the date of their country's first peacetime registration for military service. Thousands, perhaps millions, will recall it as their first step toward entering the Army. On that day more than 16,000,000 men from 21 to 35 will report at temporary offices set up in schoolhouses, town halls, and polling places to fill out registration cards and receive certificates of registration. It will take a staff of nearly 1,000,000 persons—most of them unpaid—to handle the crowds that will descend upon them between seven in the morning and nine at night.

In each locality the registration cards will be sent to a selective service board, the members of which have been nominated by the governor of the state and appointed by the president. The board will shuffle the cards and number them serially from one up.

Several days later, a lottery will be held in Washington. Each number from one to 30,000 or so will be written on a slip of paper and stuffed into an opaque capsule. The capsules will be mixed in the same glass fish bowl used in 1917, and then the President or some other high official will be blindfolded for the drawing of the first number. The number he draws will determine the first man liable for service in every group in the country. Other officials will continue the drawing, and the numbers will be published as fast as they appear.

Long questionnaires, asking about such things as occupation, physical disabilities, and number of dependents, will be sent to the men in the order in which their numbers were drawn. The information gathered in this manner will permit the listing of all of them under four headings: Class I, available for immediate service; Class II, service deferred because of essential occupation; Class III, service deferred because of dependents; Class IV, service deferred by law (legislators, judges, etc.). Because so many are available and so few are needed, the draft boards can afford to be liberal in granting deferments. Married men are likely to be put in Class III regardless of their means, and workers' service will be deferred wherever necessary to avoid disrupting industry.

Enough men will be taken from Class I

to fill the quota of each state. The quotas, which are made up in the capital, are based on state populations and allow credit for soldiers and sailors already furnished by each state through voluntary enlistment. The men called will go before their local boards to accept service or claim exemption as the case may be. Those whose claims are not allowed may, if they wish, present them for the consideration of the appeal boards.

All men called for service will be given physical examinations. Those who meet the requirements will then be sent in groups of 10 to induction centers where, for the first time, they will come into contact with the Army. Except for its acting director, Lieutenant Colonel Lewis B. Hershey, the selective service machine is entirely civilian.

Every effort will be made to have the first contingent report for duty about November 18. The maximum number which the law permits to be trained at one time is 900,000, and the War Department hopes to have something like that number under arms by spring.

## ♦ SMILES ♦



"IT'S A NOTE FROM THE MILKMAN. HE SAYS HE IS GOING AWAY FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS."  
SCHUS IN AMERICAN MAGAZINE

"There goes a famous radio comedian and his gag men."  
"Well, I suppose when you're on the air, you have to have your wits about you most of the time."  
—SELECTED

Wife: "Dear, did you notice that the lady next door has a new hat?"  
Husband (thinking fast): "Yes, and if she were as attractive as you, she wouldn't have to depend on millinery so much."  
—WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Don't you know that you can't sell bonds without a license?"  
"I knew I couldn't sell any, but I didn't know the reason."  
—SELECTED

"I don't know what to do with that dog of mine. I've tried a dozen times to give him away, but no one will have him."  
"Tried to give him away? That's not the way to get rid of a dog. Ask \$5 for him."  
—PARTY LINE

"But what has your boy friend's army career got to do with his staring at every pretty girl he sees?"  
"Oh, he's in the observation corps."  
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

"How much money do you happen to have on you?"  
"Between 98 and 100 dollars."  
"Isn't that quite a lot of money to be carrying around?"  
"Oh, two dollars isn't so much."  
—EXCHANGE

"Do you ever have to hurry to catch your morning train?"  
"Well, it's about fifty-fifty. Either I'm standing on the platform while the train puffs in, or I puff in while the train is standing at the platform."  
—PATHFINDER

"I'm sorry to have to do this," said Freddie as he spread jam on the baby's face, "but I can't have suspicion pointing its finger at me."  
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

## Information Test

Answers to the history and geography questions may be found on page 8. If you miss too many of them, a review of history and geography is advisable. Current history questions refer to this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

### European History

1. Who assumed dictatorial power in France at the end of the French Revolution?
2. At the time of our Civil War, slavery had been abolished in which of these countries? (a) British Empire, (b) Russia, (c) Germany, (d) Denmark.
3. In the Crimean War, Russia was opposed by what three countries?
4. What war was started when Austria declared war on Serbia?
5. Approximately how many years have the following dictators been in power? (a) Hitler, (b) Mussolini, (c) Stalin.
6. What country is the oldest democracy in Europe?
7. Who was the last successful invader of the British Isles?

### Geography

1. True or false: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is more than 1,000 miles farther from New York City by water than is the port of Bremen, Germany.
2. What is the principal industry of Mexico?
3. If you sailed directly east from New York, you would run into (a) England, (b) France, (c) Spain, (d) Portugal.
4. Can you name the only four states which meet at one point?
5. The Himalaya mountains of Asia are the highest mountains in the world. The second highest mountain

system is the \_\_\_\_\_, on the continent of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Name the five Great Lakes if you can.
7. What is India's chief crop?

### Current History

1. How does the rate of increase in the population of the United States during the last 10 years compare with previous increases?
2. What two factors are responsible for the slowing down in the rate of population increase in this country?
3. How do the present population trends of the United States compare with the world trend?
4. Since the Mediterranean region is poor in soil and minerals, how do you account for the fact that it plays such a vital role in world affairs?
5. How would loss of control of the Mediterranean area affect Great Britain?
6. Name the three entrances to the Mediterranean. Which nation or nations control them?
7. What is the main purpose of the tax bill recently enacted by Congress?
8. With what important war materials is the United States still furnishing Japan?
9. For what purpose has the Reconstruction Finance Corporation agreed to lend \$20,000,000 to Brazil?
10. Give the procedure by which men will be drafted into the Army after Registration Day, October 16.



# The Week at Home

## The Campaign

Election day is only three weeks away, and the path to victory seems open still to whichever presidential candidate can swing a majority of the independent voters to his side. Polls of public opinion give President Roosevelt a slight edge over Mr. Willkie in the matter of popular vote. But in the matter of electoral votes, which decide the election, it is almost impossible to say that either candidate has an advantage. Many of the states in which the President has a majority of popular votes are states with only a small number of electoral votes.

The eastern states are the most doubtful, and because they have such large populations they will probably be the deciding factors in the election. Last week Mr. Willkie, having completed a campaigning tour through the Middle West, concentrated his efforts on New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. In many of these states he has gone into areas which are distinctly Democratic in sentiment, trying to win votes. He is speaking in several cities in New York state today, and will campaign through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri before the week ends.

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt is concentrating on the problem of national defense, inspecting plants throughout the East which are manufacturing armaments. From Dayton, Ohio, an airplane manufacturing center, he reported two days ago on the nation's defense progress, over a nationwide radio network.

## Act of Havana

The Senate has at last ratified the "Convention on the Provisional Administration of European Colonies and Possessions in the Americas." This important agreement was the result of the 10-day inter-American conference held in Havana last July.

The Havana Conference, officially known as the Second Consultative Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics, declared that the nations represented would not recognize any attempted transfer of territory in this hemisphere from one non-American state to another. It provided for the creation of an emergency committee on which each republic would be represented. If any American colony of a European nation should be threatened with a change of ownership, this committee is to establish a temporary "provisional administration" to keep the transfer from being made. The possessions referred to are those of Britain, France, and the Netherlands.

## Hawaii a State?

Though Hawaiians do not vote for president, the coming election is an especially important one for them. On November 5 the 83,312 registered voters will have an opportunity to say whether or not

they want Hawaii to become a state. Only Congress, of course, can confer statehood, but a heavy vote in favor of the step might influence the lawmakers in Washington.

Since 1898, when our government finally granted the request of the Hawaiian republic for annexation, these mid-Pacific islands have belonged to the United States. In 1900 they were made a territory with a governor appointed by the President and a legislature elected by the people. They are represented in Congress by a delegate who has floor privileges but not the right to vote.

The 20 Hawaiian Islands have an area much smaller than that of New Jersey and fewer people than Jersey City. But their importance cannot be measured by their size. They have proved a good investment. Between 1900 and 1937 our government has spent \$66,000,000 on them, while they have paid into the treasury \$210,000,000. We sell them annually over \$100,000,000 worth of food, fuel, and manufactured goods, taking from them sugar, pineapples, and other agricultural products. Their chief importance to us, however, lies in their strategic value. Exactly halfway between the Panama Canal and the Philippine Islands, they constitute a vital outpost for defense.

## Charlie Chaplin

This week "The Great Dictator" opens in New York City at two first-run theaters. Soon audiences all over the country will be following Charlie Chaplin in the adventures of the little barber who happens to resemble a dictator named Hynkel. Jack Oakie is the rival dictator, *Napaloni*, and there are 12 other principals, 2,586 extras, and 45 elaborate sets. The picture is an important one even by Hollywood standards. It has cost Chaplin \$2,000,000 and two years of work and worry. This is a far cry from the days when Charlie was paid a hundred a week to caper before a backcloth and turn out an improvised comedy every five or six days. It is a still farther cry from his London childhood.

In 1889, four days before Adolf Hitler came into the world at Braunau, Austria, Charles Spencer Chaplin was born in the back room of a cheap London boarding house. Since his father was a music-hall baritone who was usually out of work, young Charles rarely had enough to eat and went to school only occasionally. His father's brief appearances before the footlights made him long for the stage, and it was with a troupe of vaudeville comedians that he came to the United States in 1910.



UNITED ARTISTS  
CHARLIE CHAPLIN



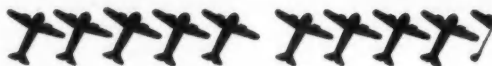
RACING THE EMBARGO DEADLINE

These Japanese vessels are loading as much scrap iron as they can carry. It will be the last trip they make to the United States for this purpose because the embargo on scrap iron and steel goes into effect on October 16.

## U. S. EXPORTS OF AIRCRAFT

INCLUDING PARTS  
AND ACCESSORIES

AUGUST  
1940



AUGUST  
1939



JULY  
1940



EACH SYMBOL EQUALS 4 MILLION DOLLARS



PLANES FOR BRITAIN INCREASE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

This chart shows how American exports of airplanes and other aeronautical products—most of which go to Britain—have increased since last year.

He was earning perhaps \$20 a week in a show called "A Night with an English Music Hall" when moving picture producers persuaded him to come to Hollywood. At least a modest success from the start, he was soon delighting the country. In 1917 he accepted the only contract in movie history paying \$1,000,000 for one year's work. Soon he was starring in pictures he produced himself.

Just one thing binds his early slapstick comedies and his later "Modern Times" and "City Lights" together. It is the character he created long ago and still loves—the clown of the baggy trousers, derby hat, and big, cracked shoes.

## Trade with Japan

When the embargo on scrap iron and scrap steel becomes effective October 16, Japan will be deprived of the source which last year supplied her with 91.01 per cent of her scrap imports. Other things we refuse to sell her are high octane gasoline for airplanes, ammonium sulphate for the making of explosives, and the machine tools which are under export license control. Some time ago, too, our government asked manufacturers not to sell her planes or plane engines.

But we are still providing Japan with a long list of the materials she needs to carry on her war. Some of these are hides, raw cotton, wood, tinplate, copper, lead, aluminum, borax, carbon, phosphate rock, automobiles, power-driven machinery, and iron and steel bars, rods, and plates.

We buy heavily from Japan, also, which makes it possible for her to buy from us. Not only do we take a great deal of her chief money crop, raw silk, but we use large quantities of her fish, bristles, tea, menthol, camphor, and manufactured goods.

## Tax Program

Building up national defense is a costly affair. Often in the past, persons in this country, as in other countries, have become millionaires through the sale of arms and war material to the government.

Congress has recently passed a bill, known as the Excess Profits Tax and Amortization Bill, which is intended to help finance our defense program and to prevent any person or corporation from making excessively high profits from it. The "Amortization" section allows manufacturers enough untaxed profits so that they can, within five years, pay for (amortize) the new plants which they must build to make arms. This is to encourage private individuals to invest money in the arms industries.

The new tax is expected to bring to the Treasury about 400 million dollars for the remainder of this year, and one billion dollars annually after this year. It raises the income tax paid by all corporations, and imposes a relatively mild tax on the "excess" profits resulting from the defense program.

Many congressmen believe this compli-

cated and much-debated tax bill may be replaced by another before the present one even goes into operation.

## U.S.-Canadian Defense

Japan's joining the German-Italian Axis has given the Canadian-American Joint Defense Board additional reason for interest in the Pacific coast.

When the board was appointed last August, it considered first the eastern shores of the continent. Boston, center of United States naval operations, and Halifax, center of Canadian sea defense, became the terminal points of a line designated to defend the cities of New England and those of eastern Canada.

Now a similar plan is to be evolved on the west coast, and there the line will run from Alaska to the United States. Members of the Joint Defense Board recently toured the critical sector, inspecting the defenses of both countries.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1933, OF THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, PUBLISHED WEEKLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCEPT TWO ISSUES IN DECEMBER AND THREE ISSUES FROM THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST TO THE FIRST ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER) AT WASHINGTON, D. C., FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 1940.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Walter E. Myer, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Civic Education Service, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Walter E. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owners are Walter E. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; and Ruth G. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none.

WALTER E. MYER, Editor  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of September 1940.  
Julian E. Caraballo  
Notary Public, District of Columbia.  
My Commission expires February 15, 1943.

## The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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# The Week Abroad

## The Far East

There is probably no highway in the world today rivaling in fame the Burma Road, which was built a few years ago for the purpose of bringing supplies into western China from Burma, a British colony on the Indian Ocean. It is not a new route; Marco Polo traveled over it in the thirteenth century. It is not a model highway: the road was built practically with the bare hands of 120,000 Chinese coolie laborers. In pushing this road through jungles, across high mountains and gorges, hardly any road-building



THE OAK STILL STANDS  
KIRBY IN N. Y. POST

machinery was in general use. The Burma Road is not even the only route into China now open. A caravan trail from Asiatic Russia, known as the "old silk route" is still in use, and there are two other routes winding across high mountains, and finally down into India.

But the alternate routes into China are good only for slow pack animals which cannot travel more than 15 miles a day on the average. The Burma route is important because it is short (726 miles, as compared to the 1,500-mile length of the silk route), and because it provides access to the sea. When this road is in operation, 1,000 trucks haul between 5,000 and 6,000 tons of materials into China each month—each truck requiring about six days en route. While in use, the road is constantly bombed by the Japanese, but as fast as the damage is done, thousands of Chinese workers swarm to the bombed area to fill in bomb-craters, and dig away landslides.

Today the Burma Road has achieved an international importance far out of proportion to its value as a mere route. It has become a point of major issue between Japan and Britain, and the powder-keg of the Far East.

Nearly three months ago, it will be remembered, Britain sought to appease Japan by agreeing to close the road from Burma into China for a period of three months. During that period, it was thought, a new and far-reaching Anglo-Japanese agreement would be reached, an agreement which would settle matters in the Far East. But things turned out very differently. No Anglo-Japanese treaty has been signed, nor even seriously negotiated. Instead, the Japanese have aligned themselves with the Axis.

Diplomats in the Far East, and in nations with an interest in the Far East, are therefore looking forward to October 18 with unusual gravity, and open apprehension. On the day before, the three-month agreement closing the road will expire. The British have stated that it will not be renewed. They have promised China that the Burma Road will be reopened on October 18. In reply, the Japanese government has warned the British, through utterances of its officials, that reopening of the Burma Road will mean war between Japan and Britain. But the British have shown no sign of backing down. The danger of the situation now lies in the fact that both sides have taken what seems to

be an irrevocable stand. Unless one or the other backs down, or a compromise is reached, a clash seems unavoidable.

One of the mysteries of the present situation is the extent to which the United States has agreed, or may agree, to support Britain in the event she becomes embroiled with Japan as a result of having reopened the Burma Road.

## Steel from the Tropics

Next to Canada, Brazil is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere. It sprawls over nearly half the continent of South America, from the jungles of the Guiana borders south to the dry, dusty cattle country bordering Argentina, and from the Andes across the continent at its widest part to the Atlantic. Only 41,560,000 people inhabit this vast area. To the economic world they are known chiefly as producers of the standard tropical products—coffee, cotton, sugar, cacao, etc.

It has not been so widely known that Brazil also contains vast stores of mineral wealth, particularly of coal, iron, and manganese. Surveyors returning from long trips into the interior have spoken of coal and iron deposits in terms of 15 and 20 billion tons, but the heat of Brazil has been so intense, the tropical forests so dense, and railroads and highways so inadequate, that little attempt has been made to exploit this wealth. Little interest of a practical nature was evident anywhere until recently, when it became known that the giant German steel combine of Krupp had been negotiating with Brazil for the right to mine Brazilian iron and ship the ore to Germany. The United States, which now regards Brazil as a key nation in its chain of friends to the south, became very interested at once.

To prevent Krupp from gaining control of Brazil's iron ore, and to lessen Brazil's dependence upon the European market, an agreement has just been reached under which the United States will advance \$20,000,000 through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to Brazil to aid in the construction of steel smelters.

## Famous Rock

Elsewhere in this issue the possibility of a joint Italo-German assault on Gibraltar is discussed. If Spanish acquiescence should make this possible, the famous rock will probably face the hardest siege in its history as a British fortress, but it will not be the first. Since 1704, when Britain wrested it from Spain, Gibraltar has been attacked several times. Once, the combined forces of France and Spain besieged its small garrison for three years, but were forced in the end to give up the task.

The ancient Greeks referred to Gibraltar as one of the Pillars of Hercules. Its present name it received from the Moors who, sweeping into Spain in the eighth

century, named it *gebel al Tarik*, or the "hill of Tarik" (a famous caliph). Three miles in length, and about one in width, the rock rises 1,400 feet out of the sea, one of its walls being nearly perpendicular. The rock itself is of limestone, and its interior is cut through with a labyrinth of natural and artificial caverns, some two miles in length, in which the British have stored quantities of ammunition, food, water, oil, and other materials necessary for resisting a long siege. Along the sides of the rock there are big "portholes" in which some of the heaviest guns in the world are mounted, able to sweep the straits, nine miles across to the Spanish Moroccan shore of Africa, the Mediterranean and Atlantic shipping lanes to a distance of 30 and 35 miles.

There is more to Gibraltar than the rock, however. In reality it is a small peninsula, connected with the Spanish mainland by a narrow isthmus. On the west side of the rock is a big naval base, complete with dockyards, wharves, cranes, and breakwaters. On the north is the little town of Gibraltar, populated for the most part by the families of the garrison. The civilian population has been largely evacuated, however, leaving only the garrison of 10,000 troops to face whatever fate may bring.

## Desert Warrior

Among the officers in charge of the Italian drive against British forces in Egypt is a very tall man with blond wavy hair and a hard mouth who is often to be seen striding through desert encampments with his collar open and sleeves rolled above his elbows. Towering well above his associates, he gives every impression of being exactly what he is—Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, Marquis of Neghelli, Italy's leading strategist and commander of the Italian army in North Africa.



RODOLFO GRAZIANI  
EUROPEAN

Born of a poor family, back in 1882, Graziani has risen to his present post through sheer skill and perseverance. Joining the army at an early age, he received most of his experience in the semideserts of Eritrea and Libya until called to the Austrian border, during the World War. Wounded twice, he returned to Libya after the armistice and dropped from the headlines until 1935, when he was given command of the Italian army invading Ethiopia from Somaliland. It was a difficult campaign, fought in blazing heat, and at its close Graziani was rewarded with the title "Marquis," and given the post of viceroy of Ethiopia for two years. He did not make a good viceroy. His severity toward the conquered seemed extreme. When a bomb



INSPECTING THE DAMAGE  
King George and Queen Elizabeth have made numerous tours of inspection of bombed areas in London.

exploded near him in Addis Ababa (wounding him in 38 places) he ordered a massacre which is remembered with bitterness in East Africa to this day.

But ruthless as he was as viceroy, Graziani has been regarded as one of Mussolini's most conservative officers. A year ago he seemed to be wavering in his support of the Fascist regime, but apparently he has been brought back. Second only to Marshal Badoglio, among Italian military leaders, Graziani is today regarded as one of the ablest officers in western Europe—known and respected for his skill among his enemies as well as among his friends.

## Soviet Enigma

Now that Germany, Italy, and Japan have joined in the Triple Alliance, and the United States has committed itself, in a limited sense, to the support of Great Britain and China, only one great power still remains on the fence—the Soviet Union. Because of Russia's enormous size, the impressive total of the man power of her 180,000,000 people, because of her large army and air force, her position today is of great importance. By shifting suddenly to one side or the other, she might be able to decide the issue at a critical moment.

Since Russia broke with Britain and France and signed the nonaggression pact with Germany, in August 1939, her foreign policy has bit by bit slipped back into the obscurity that has long caused Russia to be regarded the question mark of Europe. What is her attitude today toward England? Or toward Germany? Or Italy? Only the few men who decide matters within the gloomy walls of Moscow's Kremlin seem to know the answer.

Both Britain and the Axis powers are trying their best to win over Russia. Britain's ambassador in Moscow, Sir Stafford Cripps, has been long and earnestly trying at least to persuade the Soviets not to support Germany. The Axis and Japan, on the other hand, were very careful to state, recently, that the Triple Alliance is not directed against Russia.

In recent weeks there have been some signs that the Soviet government may be swinging back toward England, to a limited extent. The Soviet press, long hostile to Britain, has lately found a few kind comments on British labor and courage. More important, probably, is a threatened clash with Germany over Finland and the lower Danube region, where both powers are ambitious. The shrewdest observers seem to think, however, that Russia is determined to remain aloof from the war as long as possible. She would like to see the two opposing sides fight each other to exhaustion. But she would not like to face a victorious Germany.

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** Addis Ababa (ah'dis ah'ba-ba), Aden (ah'den or ay'den), Badoglio (bah-doe'lyoe), Dodecanese (doh-deh-kah-nee'), Eritrea (ay-ree'tree-ah), Farouk (fah-rook'), Rodolfo Graziani (roe-doe'foe grah-tsee-ah'nee), Java (jah'vah), Sidi Barrani (see'dee bah-rah'nee), Somaliland (soe-mah'li-land), Transjordan (trans-jor-day'nia).



JAPANESE CHILDREN LEARN TO FIGHT BOMB FIRES  
Preparing for the worst, the Japanese take air-raid precautions. These children are fighting a theoretical fire in a "bombed" schoolhouse in Tokyo. Using a chain system they are passing buckets of water to the seat of the blaze.





THE MEDITERRANEAN MAY BE THE WINTER'S MAJOR THEATER OF WAR

## War in the Mediterranean Area

(Continued from page 1)

through the Dardanelles, 15 per cent from beyond Suez, and about half from beyond Gibraltar.

### Italy's Ambitions

It has long been a source of irritation and worry to Italians that the three narrow entrances to the sea which washes the 2,500 miles of their exposed coastline are controlled by other powers—by Britain at Suez and Gibraltar, and by Turkey at the Dardanelles. And it has long been Italy's aim to strengthen her position in the Mediterranean by whatever means possible. It was to this end that Italy seized the Dodecanese Islands off the Turkish coast after the World War; that she moved to weaken Britain's position at Suez by invading Ethiopia in 1935, and at Gibraltar by backing a Spanish fascist uprising in 1936; that she reached across the narrow Adriatic and seized Albania, in the spring of 1939; and, finally, that she declared war on Britain and France on June 10, 1940.

But today, after four months of war, Italy finds herself still a long way from being the dominant power in the Mediterranean. France has fallen, it is true, but in whatever direction Italians look, they still see Britain entrenched between them and their ambitions. At the western entrance to the sea British gunners still remain secure within the deep shelters of Gibraltar, eager and able to sweep the entire straits. Even Malta, the little British island fortress a few miles from the big island of Sicily, still stands, in spite of predictions that it would be wrecked within a few days of Italy's entry into the war. Only a little more than a week ago a British naval squadron steamed into Malta harbor, landed supplies and reinforcements, and then steamed away again, unmolested by the Italian navy. In the east the situation is more complicated.

Italy, like Germany, has been cut off from a good part of the world by the British blockade. Even more than Germany she is compelled to break the grip of that blockade before it strangles her industries and starves her people. To strike at the British blockade, Mussolini has under his command a military machine which has been nearly 20 years in the making—an excellent navy, ranking fourth among those of the world; an air force of fair quality of perhaps 5,000 planes (some say more, some less), and about 8,000,000 trained men, of whom about 2,000,000 can be put into the field at one time. In wielding this powerful weapon, Mussolini enjoys the advantage of a central location which

leaves him free to strike west, south, or east.

About six weeks ago Mussolini gave the order which began a drive toward the Suez Canal—the key to Britain's entire position in the Near East. The first attack came from the south, and it succeeded in driving the British from British Somaliland, a barren strip of East African coast of no commercial value, but possession of which now permits Italian aircraft and submarines to operate against British troop and supply ships passing through the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea en route from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and India to the Suez Canal.

In the meantime an Italian force of 270,000 well-equipped troops, supported by mechanized divisions, and from 600 to 1,000 aircraft had been moved south across the Mediterranean into Libya, in North Africa. Under the able command of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani a segment of this force has pushed about 60 miles into Egypt to Sidi Barrani, a coastal town about 250 miles from Britain's naval base at Alexandria, on the Nile delta.

Against this force Britain has stationed at Alexandria, Suez, and the western border of Egypt a total of 80,000 to 130,000 troops, and about 500 fairly old aircraft. It is the task of this greatly outnumbered British force not only to prevent Graziani's Libyan army from pushing on to the fertile and populous lands of the Nile delta, but to prevent another large force, 80,000 to 100,000 strong, from striking into Egypt from Ethiopia, in the south.

### Many Difficulties

The task of the British is difficult, but the Italians also face serious obstacles. They must advance through a blazing desert in which the British have been dynamiting and salting the wells. Water is scarce in Libya, and much of it must be brought from Italy in tankers through waters made dangerous by British naval craft. A powerful British battle fleet based on Alexandria still dominates the entire eastern Mediterranean, and this fleet is able to make things difficult for the Italians by constantly shelling the coastal road over which they are obliged to move and transport their supplies. A great deal of damage is reported to have been inflicted on Italian positions in this manner. Apparently fearing that one naval defeat would cost him the entire war, Mussolini has not permitted his navy to engage the British fleet. Since the Italian land forces still face the British and 270 miles of scorching desert highway within the range of naval guns, it cannot be said that anything approaching a deci-

sion has yet been achieved by either side in the eastern Mediterranean.

But there remain a number of uncertain factors which may affect the outcome. One of these is the position of Egypt, an independent kingdom which, although allied with Britain, has not declared war on Italy. Under the provisions of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of Alliance, signed in 1936, Britain is permitted the use of Egyptian airdromes and sea bases, and to move troops through certain areas in defense of the Suez Canal.

### The Moslem World

Mussolini has been very cautious in dealing with Egypt, however. He has assured King Farouk and his cabinet that it is Italy's aim only to drive the British forces from Egypt, and that Egyptian troops will be engaged only if they attack. This caution is prompted by the fact that Egypt, with its more than 15,000,000 Arabs, is regarded as the leading Moslem country. For either Britain or Italy to become embroiled with the Egyptians might, therefore, stir a good part of the world's some 209,000,000 Moslems, from northwest Africa east to Java. The Italians have long hoped and worked to bring about a Moslem revolt against Britain, but this is a two-edged weapon, and might very well backfire on Italy itself, which also rules a Moslem empire. Hence both sides are treating the matter delicately, and the Egyptian government is apparently waiting until it is sure which way the tide of battle is running before taking a decisive stand in the war.

Up to now, it is apparent that Italy has made only a little more headway against Britain in the Mediterranean than the Germans have in their much-advertised plan to invade England proper. According to reports in the German press, Hitler is now prepared to send substantial forces to bolster Italy's war in the Mediterranean, hoping thereby not only to drive the British from the sea, but to strike a telling blow against the entire British imperial structure of colonies, mandates, and alliances in the Middle and Near East. This, it is believed, was discussed in detail by the two dictators in their recent meeting at Brenner Pass. Observers are now speculating on what form the attack will take, if it should be made this winter.

Because the British navy still ranges the narrow waters between Italy and her North African empire, and because water is so scarce in Libya, it is not believed that an attempt will be made to move large German forces down through Italy and across the sea into Africa. What experts

do expect is a blow at Gibraltar and Suez from the north. Because of its heavy guns and deep, almost impregnable shelters and emplacements, Gibraltar is almost secure from any attack by sea, particularly so long as the British navy controls the waters nearby, as it does today. But military experts believe the famous Rock could be stormed from the Spanish mainland. For some weeks Berlin and Rome have been trying to persuade Spain to permit German-Italian forces to assault Gibraltar from the rear. Weary from her long civil war, Spain is not anxious to take on a new conflict, at present, but her government is believed to be willing to permit Axis troops to make this assault, thus granting the same privileges to them that Egypt has given British troops.

### Near East and Turkey

But a Gibraltar campaign would be only a sideshow as compared to a drive in the Near East. In this region the Axis powers have been bringing great pressure to bear against the governments of Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey, all of which are friendly to Britain. What the Axis wants, apparently, is a path through the Balkans and across Turkey over which to move troops in a circling drive around the eastern end of the sea and toward Suez. Such an attack would be very difficult for Britain to resist. At the beginning of the war, there was a large French army of 200,000 picked troops in Syria upon which the British were counting for support. Today this army has been mostly disbanded (although some units have crossed the border into Palestine and joined the British), and Italy is reported to be demanding of France the right to establish bases in Syria, between Palestine and Turkey. Greece, which is still an ally of Britain, is too poor, too small, and too weak to offer effective resistance to an Italian attack from Albania, even with British support. Her collapse, or retreat into the Axis fold is, therefore, considered to be only a matter of time.

A great deal depends, however, upon the attitude of Turkey. With a population of 16,000,000 and a well-trained and well-equipped army of 300,000 men, this nation stands as one of the strongest bulwarks against Italian expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. The Turks have never forgiven Italy for seizing the Dodecanese Islands, at the close of the World War, and they are today very much concerned over Italy's ambitions in Syria, the French mandated territory just south of the Turkish border. Unofficially, the Turks have threatened to move into Syria themselves, if necessary, in order to keep Italy out. But although an ally of Britain, Turkey—like Egypt—has so far remained out of



BRITISH WARSHIPS GUARD THE MEDITERRANEAN

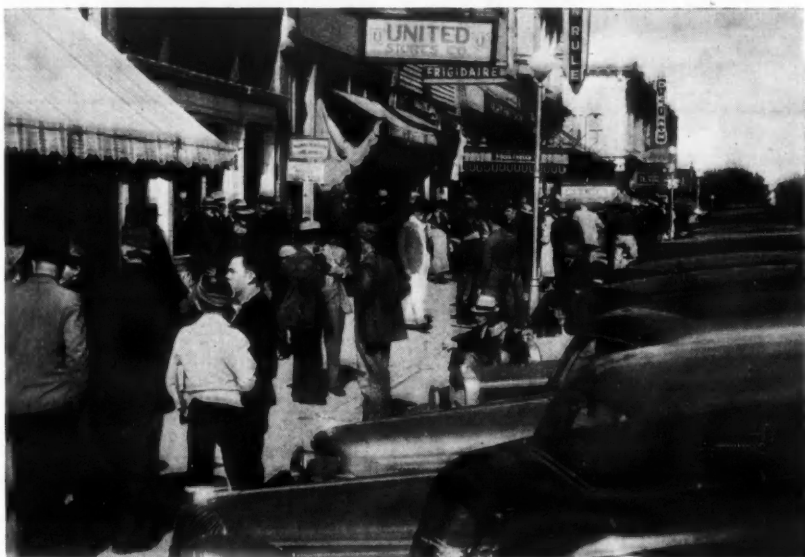
the war. This is due partly, perhaps, to a desire to see how things are going before becoming involved, and partly because Turkey is reluctant to make any move which might involve her in hostilities with Russia. Experts believe, therefore, that the key to the eastern situation is the attitude of Russia. If the Soviets agree to an Axis drive through the Balkans into the Middle East, Turkey is unlikely to remain a British ally. If the Soviets take the opposite stand, however, Turkey will

(Concluded on page 8, column 4)



# Population Trends

(Concluded from page 1)



MAIN STREET—U. S. A.

births each year, which, if continued, will play the major role in producing a static or even declining population in the future.

The second cause has been the drying up of immigration. Waves of immigrants have come to this country in varying sizes from the beginning of our history. Throughout the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth they came by the hundreds of thousands a year. In the peak year, 1882, 790,000 immigrants were added to the total population of the country. Between the close of the Civil War and the outbreak of the World War—a period of 50 years—some 26,000,000 foreigners came to this country.

Had these waves of immigration not added so greatly to our population, there would have been a decided slowing down in the rate of population growth much earlier. For nearly a century, fewer children *per family* have been born, although there was not an actual decline in the total number of babies born until a little more than 10 years ago. This declining birth rate was balanced by improvement in health standards, which reduced the death rates. While progress can still be made in prolonging human life and reducing preventable deaths to a minimum, among young and old, there is naturally a limit to human conservation in this field.

## Broad Significance

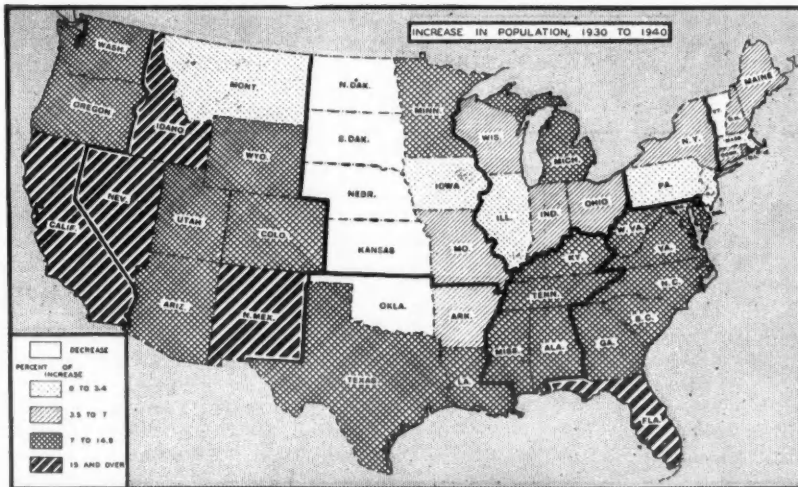
Let us now look at the significance of this slowing down of the rate of population increase. As is pointed out elsewhere in this issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*, what is happening in the United States is part of a general world trend—or more particularly of a trend common to this country and western Europe. The era of phenomenal population growth, which began about the beginning of the nineteenth century, has now come to a close and we are on the threshold of a new era in which population will increase less rapidly and eventually will fail to increase at all.

It will take years for the full impact of this trend to be felt in the daily lives and problems of the nation. Already, however, we are feeling certain effects from the slowing down of population growth. We are beginning to feel it in the schools. Because for the last 10 years, fewer babies have been born each year, fewer children are entering the elementary schools. Beginning in 1930, for the first time in our history, fewer children started to school. Between 1932 and 1934 there was a decrease of nearly 400,000. Enrollment in elementary schools is now declining at the rate of 200,000 a year. New York City may be regarded as typical of the trend. This fall there were 37,310 fewer enrollments than last semester. Within the next few years, the decline will be reflected in high school enrollments.

Thus, the most obvious manifestation of the population trend is in the proportion of persons in the various age groups. A

smaller percentage of the total population is made up of children and a larger percentage of older persons. In 1880, for instance, 14 per cent of the population was made up of children under five years of age. In 1930, only nine per cent was in that age group. The exact percentage today is not known, but it is smaller.

As the number of youths in our country declines, the number of older people increases in proportion. In 1930, there were



HOW THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

six and a half million people over 65 years of age. Five years later the number had jumped to seven and a half million, and today it is nine million. If the present trend continues, there will be 22 million persons in that age group by 1980. At that time, there will be more than 31 million persons over the age of 60.

## States and Cities

Thus far, we have spoken of general trends, which lump the entire country together. It must be pointed out, however, that the trends do not apply with equal force to all regions and localities. For example, the census shows that of the six states which actually have a smaller population today than they had 10 years ago, five of them are in the Dust Bowl—North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The other state is Vermont. At the same time, the Pacific coast states showed a substantial increase, which is attributed to the fact that they offer, as the census director, William L. Austin, points out, "the last of the well-watered lands to be occupied in continental United States." In other words, there was a considerable migration of population to lands which offered better climates and the hope of better opportunities to earn a living.

Another important fact is the apparent stopping of growth among the nation's large cities. Of the 12 largest cities, six actually declined in population between 1930 and 1940. Philadelphia, Cleveland,

St. Louis, Boston, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco now have fewer inhabitants than they had 10 years ago. Others registered only slight gains—Chicago, 8,000; Buffalo, 2,000; Cincinnati, less than 2,000; Kansas City less than 500, and Seattle less than 1,000. Taking the 237 cities of 25,000 or more and lumping them together, one can see what has been happening to the typical American city. The total population of these 237 cities increased only 5.2 per cent from 1930 to 1940, compared with an increase of 23 per cent between 1920 and 1930.

These are among the important facts about population trends which the 1940 census has revealed thus far. As the returns are compiled and analyzed more fully, other facts and trends will be made public. Meanwhile, we may undertake to interpret certain of the facts that have been brought to light and to study the problems which they are likely to raise for the future.

## Gain or Loss?

It has been assumed by many people that a slowing down in the rate of population growth is, of itself, a bad thing; that it means the United States is on the decline. A population increase has been regarded as a "gain," and a decrease as a "loss" to the nation. In studying the problem and the consequences of the trend, one would do well to heed the advice of the National Resources Committee which states: "The trend toward cessation of natural increase and toward an increase in the proportion of older people will not necessarily lead to unhappy results, though these changes raise problems that need careful consideration. . . . The question of whether a further increase or decrease of population would be generally advantageous or harmful is one that should be

made during the century and a half of its independent existence has been the result of a rapidly expanding population. For 150 years, there were constantly more mouths to feed, more backs to clothe, more families to shelter. In other words, the economy was geared to a rapidly expanding domestic market, encompassing an entire continent and embracing more than 130,000,000 people today. If this market is no longer to expand as it has in the past, adjustments will necessarily have to be made. If the American economic machine is to function, ways and means will have to be found to enable the existing population to consume more of the goods and services that can be produced. That is a difficult problem, but it is not necessarily an insoluble one. It is one which the American people will have to meet in the years to come.

In addition to finding a solution to this general economic problem, there will be a number of more specific problems to meet in the years to come. As we have pointed out, a dwindling proportion of young people in the total population will drastically affect the educational needs and programs of the future. As a nation, we will be obliged to concentrate upon improving the quality of education rather than merely preparing ourselves to take care of larger numbers. Moreover, those industries which depend upon furnishing products and services for children will be deeply affected.

## Jobs for Older Workers

More serious, however, will be the problems affecting the older age groups. As a larger proportion of the total population falls into the older age groups, more attention must be devoted to the problem of economic security for such persons. Already we are confronted by a fairly serious problem concerning the older workers who are anxious and willing to remain in industry but who cannot find employment. Many concerns are unwilling to employ workers over 40 or 45 years of age. Since, in the future, more and more workers will fall into this age group, a major problem is likely to develop unless intelligent action is taken to cope with it.

As the average age of the nation's inhabitants increases, more attention will have to be paid to the needs, other than economic, of the older groups. There will be greater need for homes for the aged, for mental hospitals. There will be demands to provide additional recreational facilities and cultural and educational advantages for an adult population. There will have to be shifts in industry to meet the demands of an advancing age group.

In order to meet these, and the dozens of other problems which will arise in connection with the slowing down of population, the American people in the future may be obliged to turn their attention to quality rather than quantity—to the "better" rather than the "bigger." An attempt must be made to solve the problems of particular regions and particular groups. The fact that we are probably entering a new era, so far as population is concerned, serves as a challenge to those who are striving to fulfill the American dream.



SOME LARGE CITIES HAVE LOST IN POPULATION





# From Knowledge to Action



## Human Resources

**W**HY has America grown to be a great and powerful nation during the last century and a half? There are, of course, a number of explanations, but three factors have undoubtedly played a part. First, we have almost boundless natural resources. Second, there has been on the American continent a rapidly growing population made up of educated and resourceful people. Third, Americans have had a tradition of freedom. The first and third of these factors will be discussed in later issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. We shall consider the second; that is, the nature of our population, this week.

Our population, that is, our human resources, and what the schools do and may do to conserve and strengthen these resources, is a subject which will be taken up during American Education Week—on Wednesday, November 13. It should be studied and discussed in advance so that all those who participate in observing Education Week may be able to make a contribution on this subject.

The population of the United States is no longer growing rapidly (see article on population, page 1, and "Historical Backgrounds," page 2). Since the quantity of the population will not grow so rapidly as it has in the past, the problem of the future is to improve the quality. That must be done if the nation is to continue to grow in strength and greatness.

The improvement in the quality of the people; that is, of our human resources, is the real job of the schools. It can be done better there than anywhere else. The schools, therefore, play an essential part in defending the nation and in keeping it on the upward path. The schools develop our human resources in the following ways:

They develop the minds and bodies of youth. They give all the people certain basic skills, such as the ability to read and write and use figures. But they do not stop at that. They give physical education. They are beginning to do good work in looking after the health of young people and in getting our youth started in the right kind of health habits. They give youth the fundamentals so that they can take

care of themselves and become good and effective citizens.

The schools go a long way toward guaranteeing people equal opportunity. They do not do it to perfection, to be sure, but much in that direction is accomplished when the young people, rich and poor, go to the same schools, live in the same environment during much of the time, and get the same general instruction. It is easier, because of the schools, for poor children to rise out of poverty to better things.

The schools are beginning to do effective work in guiding young people into appropriate occupations. There will undoubtedly be rapid development in this direction. Boys and girls will find the work that they can do best so that there will be less waste of effort. This will not only improve the opportunities of individuals, but it will make the labor power of the whole nation more effective.

The schools, by teaching the household arts and by teaching an appreciation of music, literature, and other arts, enrich and stabilize family life and thus contribute to the strength of the nation.

The schools go a long way toward developing character, and that is foundational to the kind of citizenship out of which a strong nation is built.

The schools, by training young people for effective citizenship, also help to solve many of the big problems connected with the saving and strengthening of our human resources. It is important that the people of a nation be healthy. Health standards are essential to strength and progress. And schools not only help individuals develop better health habits, but they encourage the study of public health problems.

## Other Problems

Another problem that needs to be solved if our human resources are to be properly utilized is the problem of housing. People who live in unsanitary tenements or rural shacks are likely not to develop the kind of human material that makes a nation great. If our people are not well housed, human resources will be wasted. Intelligent, well-informed citizens can help solve this problem of housing, and that is the kind of citizenship that the schools alone can build.

Another big problem is that of unemployment. Our human resources are being dangerously wasted when millions of people are out of work. Not only are these people failing to add to the nation's wealth, but they themselves are actually deteriorating. After workers remain idle for a number of years, they may be ruined so far as productive work is concerned. They may never be good workmen again. If, therefore, we are to use our human resources to the full in the development of a great nation, we must find the way to a solution of the unemployment problem.

Here are some questions which may be asked and answered by students who are interested in the population problem or the problem of saving and utilizing our human resources:

The first thing to do is to find out exactly what the trend of popu-

lation is in your own community. Has the population increased or decreased during the last 10 years? If it has increased, is the rate of growth as rapid as in the past, less rapid, or more rapid? Is this trend the same as the general trend in your state and in the nation as a whole? If not, how do you account for the differences?

In order to answer these questions, you must obtain facts. Statistics on the population of your town or city have probably already been published in your local newspapers. You will be able to gather the other essential information—about past censuses, for example—from the library or the Chamber of Commerce. If necessary, write to the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., for all the information you can obtain about your community.

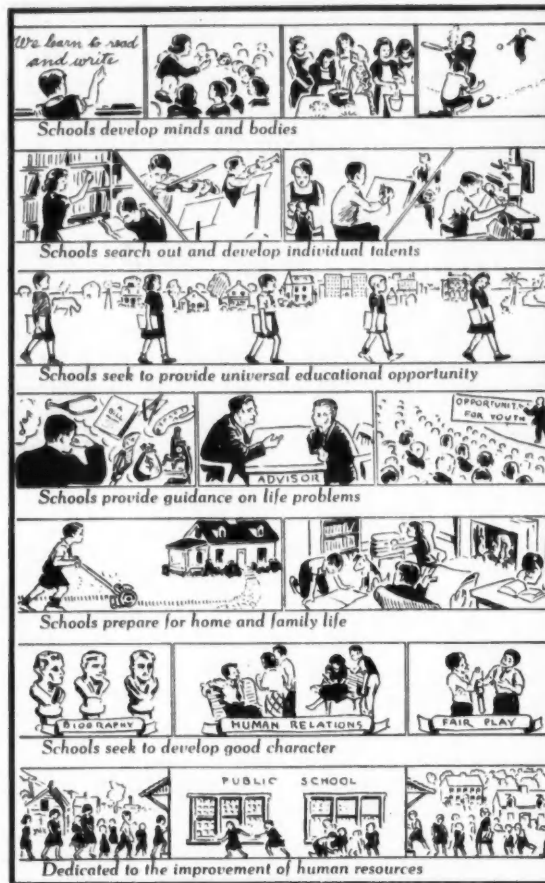
Once you have obtained the necessary facts, you may undertake further studies. How have the population changes affected your schools? Are there more or fewer students in high school this year than last? Than five years ago? How do the enrollments in the primary grades compare with previous years? What percentage of the total local population consists of children under 10 and what proportion of persons over 65? Do older people constitute a larger proportion of the total population than 10 years ago? What changes have population trends effected in the economic life of your community? Have any new industries been established in recent years? What has been the trend of employment and unemployment?

The National Education Association has the following suggestions for studies concerning the development of human resources—studies suitable for high school classes. It should be emphasized that the studies which it suggests should be made in advance of Education Week so that the results of the studies might be on hand for discussion during the Education Week programs. Here are the recommendations which the N. E. A. makes:

## N. E. A. Program

"Introduce units on human resources into social studies and other classes. Human resources may be considered from several points of view: (1) their number and location; (2) health and economic well-being; (3) the problems of crime; (4) the youth problem.

"Discuss such questions as the following in class and homeroom programs: What are the unique characteristics of the population of the United States? Why is our population growing much less rapidly than formerly? Can human resources be improved? What means are available for the improvement of human resources? What do the schools do to develop human resources? What are the greatest handicaps to the better development of human resources in the United States? To what extent do sickness and poverty affect human resources? If more money was spent on education and suitable recreation, could the amount now expended to fight crime be reduced? What are the principal wastes



HOW SCHOOLS DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES NEA

in human resources in the United States? Are the beginnings of criminality encouraged by any conditions in your community? What habits do some high school students have that are detrimental to their minds and bodies? What are the effects of housing on people? What agency has been set apart in the United States for the purpose of developing human resources that reaches the most people? What other agencies are dedicated to the same cause?"

## WAR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

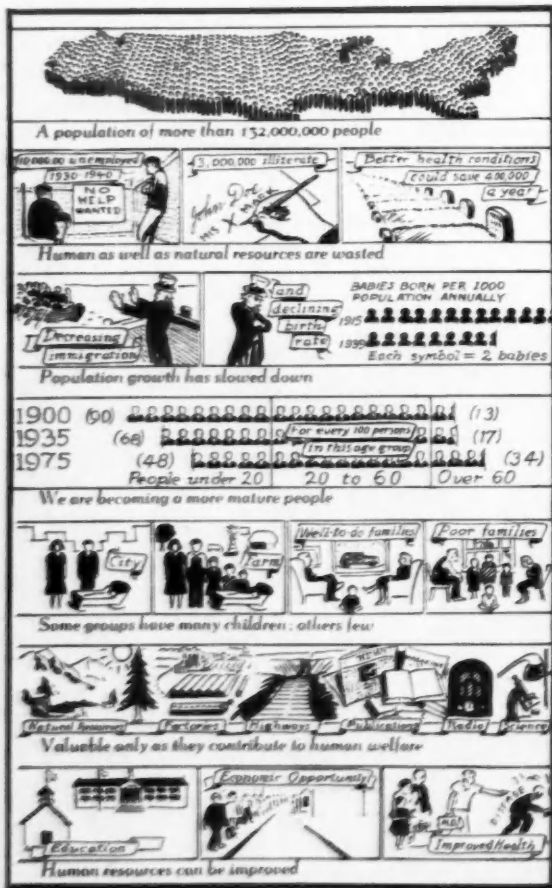
(Concluded from page 6)

probably take a similar course of action.

A defeat in the eastern Mediterranean would be a serious thing for Britain. She would be ousted from the Suez Canal, from Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, and Transjordan. She would lose her \$1,500,000,000 investments in that region, and the friendly alliances with Greece, Turkey, Iraq, and possibly Persia and the Arabian Peninsula. India would then become her most western outpost in Asia. But it would not be as serious as a successful invasion of Britain. Communications between England and the British Empire in southern Asia should still be maintained by way of the Cape of Good Hope route, which increases the distance from London to India by about 60 per cent, to Singapore about 37 per cent, and to Australia by 10 per cent. But the mere ousting of the British from Gibraltar and Suez would not necessarily break the British blockade, which is Italy's chief aim. Italy might obtain the freedom of the Mediterranean itself, but find British forces still blockading the Red Sea approach to Suez, and—possibly—entrenched in the Azores, Canary, and Cape Verde Islands (which necessity would force her to seize) west of Gibraltar.

## Information Test Answers

- European History**  
 1. Napoleon Bonaparte. 2. All. 3. Turkey, England, and France. 4. World War. 5. Hitler, 7; Mussolini, 18; Stalin, about 15. 6. Switzerland. 7. William the Conqueror.
- Geography**  
 1. True. 2. Mining. 3. (d) Portugal. 4. Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. 5. Andes, South America. 6. Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario. 7. Tea.



DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCES NEA